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FM AMEMBASSY DHAKA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9803

INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 2204

RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY 2965

RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

RHMFIUU/CDRUSARPAC FT SHAFTER HI PRIORITY

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

RUEKJCS/CJCS WASHDC PRIORITY

RHHMUNS/COMSOPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

RHOVVKG/US COMSEVENTHFLT PRIORITY

RUEAWJB/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY

RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

RUCNFB/FBI WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

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SIPDIS

DEPT FOR SCA/INSB, S/CT (RHONDA SHORE AND BRYAN KOONTZ)
CIA FOR NCTC

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PTER PINS PGOV PREL ASEC BG

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH: 2009 COUNTRY REPORT ON TERRORISM

REF: STATE 109980 - INSTRUCTIONS

¶1. (U) In compliance with reftel, Mission Dhaka submits its 2009 Country Report on terrorism.

Text of report follows:

Immediately after taking office in January 2009, the Awami League-led government began a crackdown on domestic and transnational terrorist groups. As a result, Bangladesh and India improved their counterterrorism cooperation during the year, which resulted in the arrest of several senior members of the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), an anti-India insurgency group. In November, Bangladesh arrested several extremists alleged to have ties to Lashkar-e Tayyiba (LeT), the organization believed responsible for the November 2008 Mumbai attack, Harakat ul-Jihad-i-Islami/Bangladesh (HUJI-B), and other extremist groups. Informed observers noted that some of those arrested were linked to terrorist activities inside India. The arrests were of the government's efforts to deny transnational terrorists safe havens in Bangladesh.

Jamaatul Mujahedin Bangladesh (JMB), the banned domestic Islamic extremist group responsible for a wave of bombings and suicide attacks in late 2005, remained a threat. During the first three months of 2009, authorities arrested several suspected JMB members and uncovered weapons caches that included grenades and chemicals that could be used to make explosives.

In February, the Awami League-led government adopted into law the Money Laundering Prevention Act (MLPA), 2009 and the Antiterrorism Act (ATA). These laws formalized the ordinances passed in 2008 under the caretaker government. Although not fully compliant with international standards, the MLPA addressed many flaws in the preceding 2002 money laundering law and the ATA introduced antiterrorist financing into the Bangladeshi legal system for the first time. The laws facilitate international cooperation and established a financial intelligence unit (FIU) at the Bangladesh Bank. The new laws are part of the effort to enable Bangladesh to enter the Egmont Group, the international body of FIUs that plays a critical role in fighting terrorist financing.

U.S. and Bangladeshi law enforcement agencies cooperated well on several cases related to domestic and international terrorism. Bangladesh cooperated with the United States to further strengthen control of its borders and land, sea, and air ports of entry. The United States continued human rights training for the Rapid Action Battalion, the country's premier counterterrorism law enforcement force. Additional assessments and trainings were provided under the Anti-Terrorism Assistance program and from the Department of Justice's Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training.

End text of report

¶2. POC for the Country Report on Terrorism is Enrique R. Gallego, email: gallegoer@state.gov.

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